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Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" I want to put a supplementary question to the hon. the Home Member. If I remember rightly, the total number of people convicted was something like 30 to 32 thousands. But I see the number of appeals disposed of is only 1,775. For obvious reasons probably many have not come up with appeals. Practically I see that one-fifth were either acquitted or had their sentences reduced. Would it not be, Sir, gracious on the part of the Government if they pursue now a generous policy of remission of sentences as prayed for by Resolutions numerously signed ? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" I am not quite sure whether this is a request for information ; it seems to be rather a recommendation. I remember, Sir, that your predecessor has reminded the House that anything which is not a request for information should take the form of a Resolution."

Mappilla rebels fined under the suspended sentence scheme.

164 *Q.*—Mr. K. Uppi Sahib : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Mappillas have been fined under the suspended sentence scheme for offences connected with the rebellion ;

(*b*) what is the total amount of fine so levied ;

(*c*) how much has been already collected ;

(*d*) how many of the Mappillas so fined have made default in paying the fine ; and

(*e*) how many of them have been imprisoned for such default ?

A.—(*a*) 17,688 up to the end of December 1923.

(*b*) Rs. 10,11,234-6-6 up to end of December 1923.

(*c*) Rs. 6,14,228-15-9 up to end of December 1923.

(*d*) 2,279, excluding one taluk for which figures are not yet ready.

(*e*) 424 up to 30th November 1923.

Medical Service.

Compulsory retirement of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

165 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons who were compelled to retire under the Retrenchment scheme were not permitted to avail themselves of any kind of leave before retirement though they might be entitled to the same and that a special Government Order was issued to that effect ;

(2) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, whether the hon. the Minister will be pleased to lay on the table the Government Order in question ;

(3) whether it is a fact that officers of less than fifty years of age and thirty years of service were made to retire, while those who were older and had put in longer service were retained ; and

(4) whether it is a fact that the local boards were given the option to employ their own Sub-Assistant Surgeons in medical institutions under their charge except taluk headquarter hospitals ?

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A.—(1) Sub-Assistant Surgeons affected by the Retrenchment scheme were permitted to avail themselves of leave up to the date of expiry of the three months' notice.

(2) A copy of G.O. No. 1395, P.H., dated 20th August 1923, is laid on the table.*

(3) The Government would like to take advantage of this opportunity to explain fully the principles which guided them in giving effect to the Retrenchment scheme. The Government maintained a leave reserve of 15 per cent of the sanctioned number of appointments for Civil Assistant Surgeons and of 25 per cent in the case of Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The Retrenchment Committee which examined carefully the justification for this large reserve discovered that a very large percentage of this reserve was normally unemployed. At the time the committee examined the question, there were as many as 100 Sub-Assistant Surgeons who were not holding any sanctioned appointment but were attached as supernumeraries to various hospitals although the actual strength of the service was short of the sanctioned cadre by ten. The maintenance of a large number of officers for whom there was no work obviously involved a waste of public money and the committee recommended that the reserve staff should be reduced from 25 to 10 per cent of the sanctioned number of appointments. The obvious way to attain this object was to dispense with the services as far as possible of officers who were entitled to a full pension and who were not fit for promotion to the selection grade. The Government accepted the committee's recommendations but, in order to minimize the hardship resulting from such a large reduction of the staff, they decided to retain in service a number of officers sufficient to fill the vacancies occurring in 1923 and part of the vacancies in 1924. Forty Sub-Assistant Surgeons were provided for in this manner. In regard to the rest, the following plan was adopted :—

(i) Men who were entitled to a full pension but had not been promoted to the selection grade to be discharged first;

(ii) next, men who had not earned their first increment on 1st May 1923, in the order of juniority ; and

(iii) lastly men who had been condemned as unfit for further promotion.

Accordingly officers who had put in over 25 years' service and who had not been promoted to the selection grade were retired first. The number of officers falling under this category was 34. At the time when the orders were issued there were as many as 53 officers with less than 25 years' service who had been promoted to the selection grade. In other words, the officers who were retired had been superseded at least 53 times. The scheme did not affect officers in the selection grade, of whom a few who have completed 50 years of age and 30 years' service are still in service.

(4) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

* Printed as Appendix IV on page 169 infra.

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The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" With reference to the answer to sub-clause (iii) it is stated, 'Accordingly officers who had put in over 25 years' service and who had not been promoted to the selection grade were retired first.' May I ask the hon. the Minister whether it is not a fact that those who had put in 26 years of service, 27 years of service and 28 years of service and who have been debarred from going to the selection grade have been retained? If it is so, may I request the hon. the Minister to kindly consider the fairness, of allowing people who have just completed 25 years being retained?"

11-15 a.m.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" No one with 26 years of service, unless he is already in the selection grade, is retained."

Granting of leave for retiring Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

166 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any orders were issued that sub-assistant surgeons ordered for retirement should not be granted privilege or other leave to be availed of by them preliminary to retirement, and, if so, the date from which the above orders were given effect to?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 165. No particular date was fixed for giving effect to the order.

Appointment of Assistant Surgeons to taluk headquarter stations.

167 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he proposes to appoint Assistant Surgeons to all taluk headquarter stations;

(*b*) whether sub-assistant surgeons of efficiency may not be posted to such stations;

(*c*) the reasons why sub-assistant surgeons in permanent service were compulsorily retired and their places given to more highly-paid Assistant Surgeons;

(*d*) whether a special Government Order was passed refusing leave of absence to sub-assistant surgeons compulsorily retired;

(*e*) whether officers less than 50 years of age were compulsorily retired, while men over 50 years of age are still retained in service; and

(*f*) whether the Government will allow these men compulsorily retired, to avail themselves of the full leave of absence to which they are entitled under the rules?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

(*c*) The reasons for the compulsory retirement of Sub-Assistant Surgeons are given in the answer to question No. 165.

(*d*) & (*e*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 165.

(*f*) The Government are not prepared to reconsider the orders already passed.